

WRMC 91.1 FM Statement Concerning Deregulation

We, the General Board of WRMC Middlebury College, 91.1 FM, wish to publicly express our unanimous opposition to the further deregulation of the radio industry in light of the upcoming FCC Biennial Regulatory Review. We understand that Regulatory Reviews are intended, according to a 1996 amendment to Section 11 of the Communications Act, to reduce the regulation of telecommunications service providers in cases for which regulation is no longer necessary in the public interest as the result of meaningful economic competition between providers of such service. Statistics compiled since the partial deregulation of the radio industry in 1996 have shown that, far from fostering meaningful economic competition, deregulation has resulted in the rapid consolidation of the industry into the hands of relatively few firms, jeopardizing the survival of local, independent radio stations nationwide. The negative implications of consolidation include deteriorating quality and diversity of music and news programming, declining numbers of the local, independent media that are crucial to a functioning democracy, and the loss of industry jobs. We urge the FCC to reject any proposals for further radio industry deregulation at this time.

Please keep us updated on your proceedings. Thank you.